The work of civilian oversight, regardless of whether or not you are an attorney, requires an enhanced and ever-updated knowledge of the law. This session will provide an overview of developments in case law, trends in state legislation, and recent legal challenges that civilian oversight has encountered. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about trends that affect use of force, accountability procedures, transparency, and how civilian oversight agencies operate. While designed for attorneys, this course is appropriate for all those seeking to gain a better understanding of current procedural and substantive law affecting oversight.

Speaker:
- Sharon Fairley, Professor from Practice, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, IL

Moderator:
- Janna N. Lewis, Deputy Ombuds, King County Ombuds Office, Seattle, WA

Speaker Biographies

Sharon R. Fairley  |  Sharon R. Fairley is a Professor from Practice at the University of Chicago Law School where she has been teaching law since 2015. Ms. Fairley immersed herself in the world of civilian oversight of law enforcement in December 2015, when, following the controversial officer-involved shooting death of Laquan McDonald, she was appointed to serve as the Chief Administrator of the Independent Police Review Authority, which, at that time, was the Chicago agency responsible for police misconduct investigations. In that role, Ms. Fairley implemented a series of reforms and she was also responsible for creating and building Chicago’s new Civilian Office of Police Accountability. Prior to her work in civilian oversight, Ms. Fairley served as the First Deputy Inspector General and General Counsel for the City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General. Ms. Fairley also served eight years as a federal prosecutor with the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois, investigating and trying criminal cases involving illegal firearms possession, narcotics conspiracy, bank robbery/murder, murder for hire and economic espionage, among other criminal acts. Ms. Fairley holds a B.S. degree in mechanical and aerospace Engineering from Princeton University, an M.B.A. degree in marketing from The Wharton School of Business, and a J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

Janna Lewis  |  Janna Lewis has more than 15 years’ experience working in the Criminal Justice arena. For the past 10 years, Janna has been working as a Deputy Ombudsman for the King County Ombudsman’s Office where she mainly conducts independent, impartial investigations of complaints regarding both the King County Sheriff’s Office and Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.
Janna has been an active volunteer for NACOLE, having spent time on several committees including the Strategic Planning Committee, Training, Education and Standards Committee, and the Website and Digital Media Committee. She has attended six NACOLE conferences and is currently a Certified Practitioner of Oversight. She has also had in-depth training in Procedural Justice, Law Enforcement Performance Auditing, Mediation, and Cognitive Interviewing.

Prior to her work as a Deputy Ombudsman, Janna has worked as both a Criminal Defense Attorney and as a Prosecutor. She has graduated with honors from Seattle University School of Law with a J.D. (2004) after receiving her B.A. (2001) in Law and Justice from Central Washington University.